GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4454
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000
REMUNERATIVE PRICES TO FARMERS
SHANKERSINH VAGHELA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers of Punjab and other States are agitating for not getting remunerative price for their products;

(b) whether the State Governments had demanded any financial or other type of assistance in this regard; and

(c) the extent of assistance provided by the Union Government to various States so far, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)to(c): In order to reduce the hardship of farmers and to enable the procuring agencies to purchase paddy the Government has allowed procurement of paddy with damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains upto maximum limit of 8 per cent instead of 3 per cent provided in uniform specifications for Kharif Marketing Season2000-01 for the State of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

It was also decided that in respect of those farmers, whose paddy had been purchased below minimum support price (MSP) the State Government will make good the difference. The total expenditure arising out of this differential shall be restricted to a maximum of Rs.100 crores. The The Government of India will compensate to theexpenditure of 50 per cent and the balance will be borne by the State Government.

Similarly, in order to reduce hardship of farmers and to avoid distress sale of Maize the Government has decided to procure Maize in Karnataka with:-

i) Demaged grains upto a maximum limit of 2 per cent instead of 1.5 per cent provided under uniform specification with full value cut over 1.5 per cent.

ii) Slightly damaged, discoloured and touched grains upto a maximum limit of 6 per cent instead of 4.5 per cent as provided under uniform specification with full value cut over 4.5 per cent.